

Inside

Field Managers Named	2
Profile: Martha Woodworth	3
Manager's Answers	4-5
Combined Federal Campaign	6
Emergency Fire Fighters	6
Cool News	7
Health: Dehydrated Nation?	8

ALASKA People



September/October 1998



Front row, l-r: Dick Bouts, acting Northern Field Office manager; Phil Martin (USF&WS), Susan Flora, environmental scientist; Anne Morkill, wildlife biologist; Dave Yokel, wildlife biologist; Sharon Wilson, public affairs officer; Steve Iverson, computer specialist. Back Row: Mike Worley, realty specialist; Don Meares, natural resource specialist; Joe Ribar, fire staff officer; Dave Dash, fire operations chief; Jon Kostohrys, hydrologist; Jerry Nordmann, natural resource specialist; Tim Hammond, GIS coordinator; Randy Goodwin, outdoor recreation planner; Tom Allen, Alaska State Director and Tom Fry, Deputy Director.

Employees lauded for National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska project

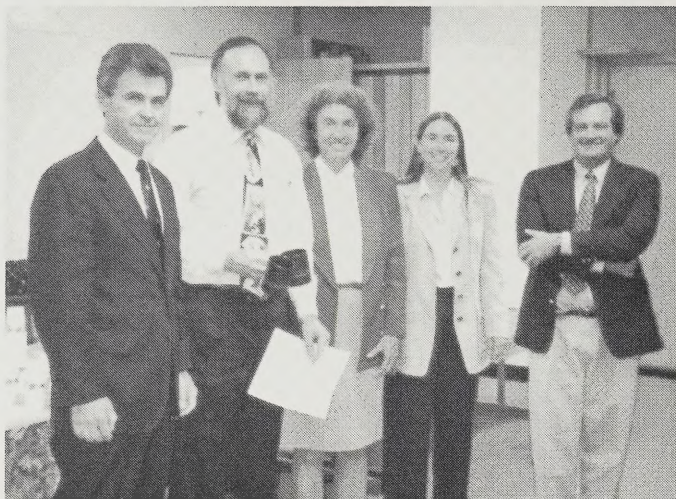
by Ed Bovy and Danielle Allen

Although there weren't any singing caribou or dancing polar bears, the mood was definitely festive for employees celebrating the completion of the environmental impact statement for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Employees who had worked on the EIS and activity

State Director To Retire

On Sept. 14, State Director Tom Allen surprised employees by announcing his plans via e-mail to retire. He and his wife Carol will leave Alaska and build a home outside Elko, Nevada where they will have a fabulous view of the Ruby Mountains. Shortly after his announcement, while in Fairbanks addressing the public affairs conference, he said many people in the organization leave because of health problems or they're mad. He said he was neither. Allen said he could have stayed a few years longer but it still would have been difficult to leave Alaska. "Employees in Alaska are getting the job done," said Allen. "After 36 years, it is time to leave." He plans to leave this winter, and no date has been set.

continued on page 2



NPRA team leader Gene Terland (with mugs) was warmly received at a recent ceremony honoring all the employees working on the NPRA environmental impact statement and activity plan. Joining him are (l-r) Tom Allen, State Director; Terland; Deborah Williams, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior; Sally Wisely, Associate State Director; Tom Fry, Deputy Director.

Schneider and Freeland Named New Managers for Northern Field Office

Robert Schneider's selection as the new Field Manager for the Northern Field Office in Fairbanks was announced on Sept. 24. While earlier in the week on Sept. 22 State Director Tom Allen announced that William Freeland will be Associate Northern Field Manager in an all employees meeting in Fairbanks.

Schneider, 52, has been the associate district manager in Craig, CO for almost three years. He began working for BLM in 1976 as an outdoor recreation planner in El Centro, CA. He held recreational planner positions in

EIS and NPR-A activity plan on time.

The final plan, released Aug. 7, proposes to make oil and gas leasing available in 87 per cent of a 4.6-million acre study area of the petroleum reserve. The plan would bar leasing and development in sensitive waterfowl and caribou habitats. Subsistence activities would be protected by a ban on oil and gas surface facilities around specific rivers and streams (exceptions are allowed for essential pipeline and road crossings).

Although 18 months is an incredibly short time to complete an EIS, BLM was able to fast track the plan because of assistance from Minerals Management Service, U.S. Geological Survey, North Slope Borough, and the State of Alaska employees—the NPR-A team. Employees from these agencies were also honored.

(NPRA continued)

plan for the past 18 months were recognized in ceremonies in Anchorage on August 31, and in Fairbanks, September 1. BLMers from Fairbanks and Anchorage had worked long hours to complete the

BLM State Director Tom Allen was all smiles but admitted to some anxious moments during the year. He says there were times when he'd leave the Anchorage federal building on the weekend and go by the MMS building and see cars in the parking lot. "I was hoping they were inside working on the EIS. But I never went inside to see," said Allen. The MMS, a major partner, did much of the writing, analysis and development of alternatives for the EIS.

Employees received individual letters signed by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt as well as a special NPR-A commemorative mug.

Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior Deborah Williams said that Secretary Babbitt was extremely pleased with the team's work and the NPR-A project is a model for the department. Last year, Babbitt visited the petroleum reserve on a week long field trip in July.

"The Secretary said this is the best decision he's made since becoming the Secretary," said BLM Deputy Director Tom Fry. "Maybe some people will take issue with the decision, but nobody faults the quality—it's a quality document. The good work that happens, happens in the field." *Ed Bovy is a public affairs specialist with the External Affairs Office at the Alaska State Office.*

Needles, CA and Washington D.C. Schneider returned to the field in 1992 as associate district manager in Craig, CO. He has a M.S. from the University of Arizona and a B.S. from the California State Polytechnic University. He replaces former Northern Field Manager Dee Ritchie.

Freeland, an environmental field coordinator with the Department of Energy in Las Vegas, is respon-

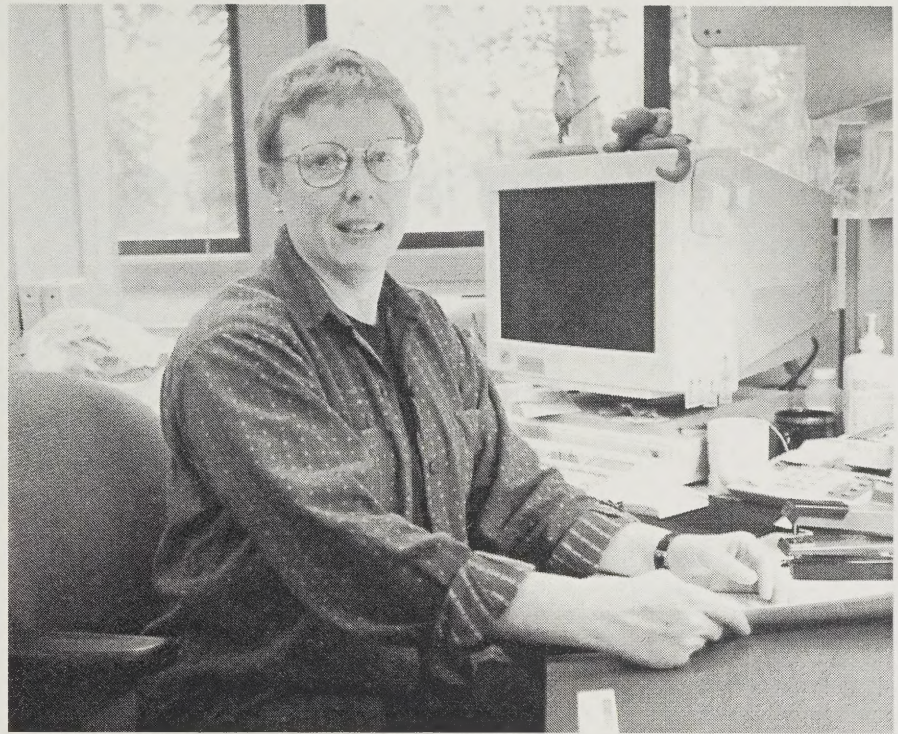
sible for all scientific activities and construction at Yucca Mountain. He's presently working on a project to determine if Yucca Mountain, a volcanic ridge, is suitable for construction of a nuclear fuel repository. Freeland is a 24-year federal employee who has worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and Soil Conservation Service. He replaces Dick Bouts, the Associate Field Manager.

Employee Profile

Formerly a supervisory land law examiner, Martha Woodworth has worked as a realty specialist in northern Alaska for the last two years. Assigned to the Dalton Team, she enjoys conducting site visits where she has issued land use authorizations. "I don't mind the paperwork ... I like the variety of my job," says Woodworth.

Woodworth was born in Shreveport, LA and spent most of her growing years in Arkansas. She left New Mexico and moved to Alaska in 1978 after a visit when she fell for Alaska's scenery and beauty. She began working for the Fish and Wildlife Service and then came to BLM in 1979, working as a contact representative in the Fairbanks public room.

Martha's free time is spent working on a log home she and her husband have been building in the woods outside Ester for the past 16 years. Flying their airplane around northern Alaska and traveling to far-distant places has slowed their progress on the house.



Martha Woodworth Realty Specialist

How long have you lived in Alaska? 20 years, 6 months.

What do you enjoy most about your job? The variety, the challenge, working with the public and most of all, the outdoor field work.

What book are you currently reading? A Mary Higgins Clark mystery, Pretend You Don't See Her.

What is your idea of a good time? Doing whatever makes me laugh. I love to laugh and see other people smile and laugh.

What was your favorite job? My present position as realty specialist.

If you had one year to live, what would you do? Visit close friends, travel and between trips, stay home with my three dogs and read.

Name one thing that people would be surprised to know about you.

I have a degree in psychology and a split personality — my alter ego's name is Betty. I am an extreme introvert and a secure person; Betty is much more laid-back and relaxed.

What does your "ultimate meal" consist of? A complete, luscious salad bar, followed by prime rib and baked potato (in short, the Turtle Club in Fox).

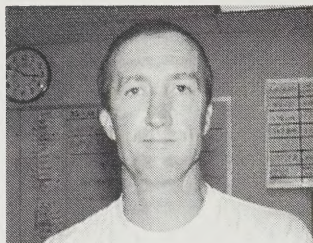
What bad habit would you like to break? My expecting that everything has to be perfect!

What is your favorite place? Lake Wanaka, on the south island of New Zealand.

What is the most important thing you've learned since working for the BLM? I attended BLM-sponsored training that included information about personality types based on the four-color theory some years ago. I have used that information to identify how people operate and what to expect from them.

What have you done recently that helped the staff or changed

Last year at this time, each member of the Alaska Leadership Team responded to the newsletter question traditionally asked of rank and file employees. It was probably the most talked about and most scrutinized portion of the newsletter. So this year, in keeping with this popular tradition, we go to the second rung of management and talk to branch chiefs, etc. There was reluctance by many to "toot one's own horn," with everyone attributing their success to the assistance from their staff. However, this is a look at individual management accomplishments.



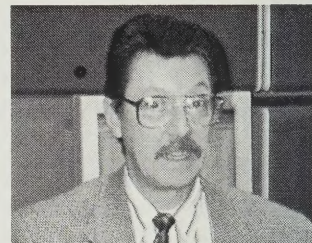
Thomas Boatner,
State Aviation Manager
Alaska Fire Service

As State Aviation Manager for BLM, Alaska, I've participated with my colleagues in BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in exploring ways to reduce aviation costs. One result of our efforts is a shared smokejumper aircraft between the BLM Alaska Fire Service and the USFS North Cascades Smokejumper base in Washington. The shared aircraft contract results in a savings of \$125,000 to the BLM and a savings of \$125,000 to the USFS each fire season, a total of \$250,000 saved for the taxpayer.



Sharon Warren, Br. Chief
Br. of Northern Adjudication
Div. of Conveyance Mgmt.

For the last two years I have been an intern supervisor for the Minority Student Intern Program. The sharing of how rewarding a federal career can be and to provide a career choice to a student intern gave me a feeling of personal satisfaction. This year's Student Intern, Johnnie Bocanegra, just returned to law school after working with us for 10 weeks. This experience has been rewarding for both students who come with enthusiasm to learn new skills and the branch employees who have gone all out to share their adjudication expertise and insight to living in Alaska. Also, Ramon Garcia-S has been excellent in his endeavors to promote the program and provide assistance to the student interns.



Don Baggs, Supv. Phys. Sci.
Lands & Minerals Group
Div. of Lands, Minerals & Res.

I helped orchestrate the successful transition of former Bureau of Mines employees into BLM. With the blessings of State Director Tom Allen, Deputy State Director Nolan Heath, and others, I have worked with a variety of BLM customers to assure that the "new BLM employees" have a sense of mission. With help from others, I worked closely over the past two years with the Forest Service, State of Alaska, and the U.S. Geological Survey to coordinate and plan cooperative mineral activities in Alaska. Visit our web site at: <http://www.imcg.wr.usgs.gov/>

Recently I have been involved in helping assure that the mineral patenting effort gets completed by the deadline of September 1999.

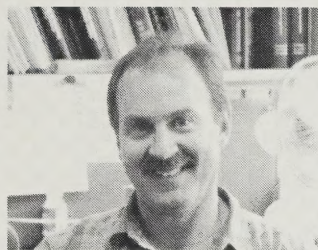
you're particularly proud of that things or a program for the better?



Susan Will,
Acting Assoc. Field Mgr.
Northern Field Office

I've traded off with Herb Brownell as Acting Associate Manager for the Northern Field Office since April. I'm proud of the multitude of thorny problems we've addressed. For example, when a process was identified to improve teams' budget accountability, Brownell and I regularly met with the teams to help them better understand and track their budgets.

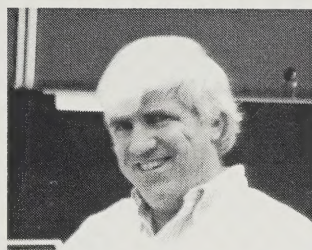
We're working with several teams and subcommittees to refine and improve their organizational structure. For example, a subcommittee is now working with us to clarify the roles of management and teams in order to resolve administrative workload problems resulting from the field office team structure.



Thomas Deiling, Br. Chief
Branch of Spatial Records
Division of Cadastral Survey

I wrote Cadastral Survey's response to the proposed rule for the implementation of Indian self governance. The implications of the rule as currently written could have a large and permanent effect on BLM and other Interior agencies. One interpretation of the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 would allow an Indian tribe to compact for programs "that are of special geographical, historical, or cultural significance," even though non-Indians are served by the same program.

The Alaska land conveyance program which implements land settlement under ANCSA is specifically mentioned within the proposed rule as available for compacting. I identified areas within the rule where distinctions between the Indian agencies (Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service) and other Interior agencies were not made.



Clinton Hanson, Group Mgr.
Renew. Res. & Support Sycs.
Anchorage Field Office

My job, as I perform it, is to make things happen that enable the field office staff to carry out their programs and assignments. Most staff are unaware of what I do. I pretty much have my hands in everything from implementing the field manager's directions, to managing the office budget, to providing guidance to the Campbell Creek Science Center, to working with my individual team specialists and coordinating with everyone from maintenance to information technology. While this is not a single specific action, I am certain my efforts have been worthwhile and made a measurable difference in helping the office and the individual specialists accomplish the business of managing public lands and serving the public.



Sandy Larson, Personnel Ofc
Br. Human Resource Mgmt
Div. of Support Services

In the Alaska State Office HRM office we've moved to the generalist concept since the downsizing of the federal government. I came up with a generalist concept and prepared an issue paper for our former deputy state director for Support Services which allowed me to reorganize the office. This included the usual process of writing new position descriptions. The idea was to provide one-stop shopping. This has given branch employees a greater understanding and knowledge of each functional area within HRM, career opportunities and marketability. This concept is definitely the way of the future. Each employee has been provided training (classroom and on-the-job) to become proficient in their new responsibilities. This has also enabled my staff to provide better service to our customers.



by Leslie Torrence

The Bureau of Land Management has supported the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for many years. I believe our

contributions are essential for promoting the efficient, voluntary method of providing human care services on a personal level to our employees, their families, and to all citizens.

Our community faces social problems affecting everyone. Your support of CFC charitable agencies makes it possible to help runaway teens, families in crisis, alcohol and other substance abusers, the disabled, the elderly, and the environment, just to mention a few...

The 1998 CFC Team is comprised of outstanding BLM employees selected for their charisma,

community spirit, and willingness to lend a hand. Each member volunteered freely and brings positive energy to the group.

During the next few weeks, you will be hearing a great deal about the 1998 CFC at the BLM. Our campaign will take place from September 14 through October 9, 1998.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for news about exciting events and prizes.

Leslie Torrence, a land law examiner for the Div. of Lands, Minerals and Resources, is BLM's CFC coordinator this year.

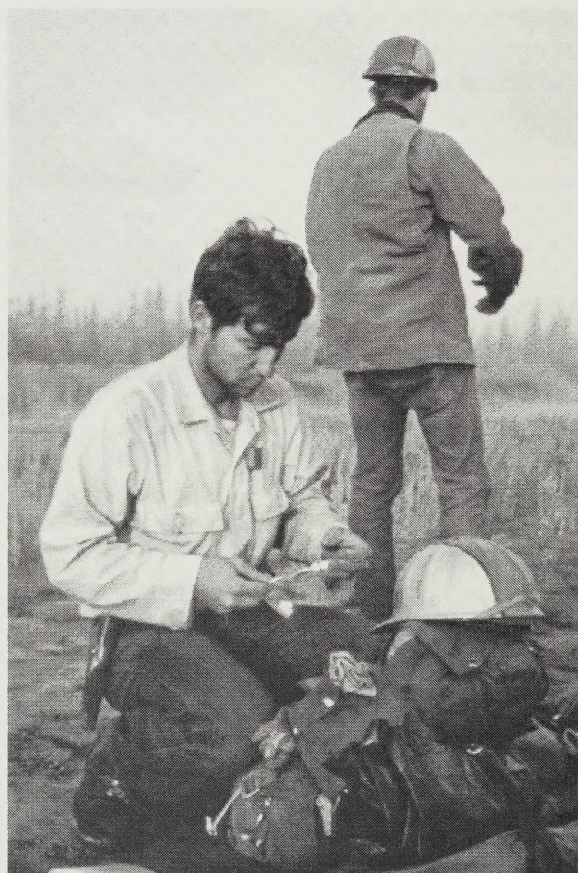
EFF: Emergency Fire Fighters

A job program that works for the Alaska Fire Service

by David Dash

Everyone at the Alaska Fire Service understands that EFF stands for Emergency Fire Fighter. These are the people hired for a specific fire to supplement our permanent, seasonal and temporary workforce. Their jobs range from fire crew members and dispatchers, to warehouse workers. Most EFFers live in rural Alaska villages and many are third generation to the BLM fire program.

Over the last 15 years, through the combined efforts of AFS, State of Alaska Division of Forestry and the EFFers, we have built a statewide EFF program which provides excellent fire crews for operations in Alaska and the lower 48. AFS invests approximately \$150,000 each year to manage this program,



including fireline and crew boss training, safety refreshers and physical fitness training. AFS and the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry, annually pay more than \$6.5 million in EFF wages. There are 73 organized EFF crews, and 1,200 crew members reside in towns and villages throughout fire-prone areas in Alaska. Clearly the EFF program is a success: it provides employment in areas of high unemployment and it provides AFS with a high quality, experienced, available workforce that is critical to our success. *David Dash is the division chief of Fire Operations for the Alaska Fire Service.*

Firefighter takes break from the fireline.

Cool News

Co-op Students Are Valued. Throughout the year, especially during the summer, the BLM relies on a temporary work force to get the job done. This year in Anchorage, 17 high school students worked as cartographic aides, microfilm operators, records assistants, etc. Cadastral Survey employed eight of these students, the most of any office.

Three students working for Survey, **Vernise Casimir,**

Genie Cruz

and **Michelle Shutt,** were

profiled in the *Anchorage Daily News* in

an article about the

School Business Program

which the BLM partici-

pates in with

the Anchorage School District. See what they look like by checking

the Cool News in the July/August issue of *Alaska People*. See the

above article written by co-op student Vernise Casimir. It is

edited for brevity, but her colorful and distinctive writing will give

readers an idea what all these young people bring to the BLM work force.

Hotshot Crew is in Puerto Rico. The Chena Hot Shot Crew flew on

Coop Students Are the Bomb!

by Vernise Casimir

Co-op students Vernise Casimir, Genie Cruz, and Michelle Shutt make the headlines. They work for BLM as record assistants and office assistant. They work hard for their over \$7 an hour job. They make everyone on the job eager to come to work. Just to see them. Man are they the bomb. I was amazed on how smart they were.

These girls are excellent role models. What's even better is that these girls came from dif-

ferent high schools. Michelle went to Service, Vernise went to East and Genie goes to Chugiak. Three girls who came from three different places and now as one. If you see them together you would think that they knew each other for years. They seem to enjoy coming to work. God knew what he was doing when they got the job. *Vernise Casimir is a record assistant for the Division of Cadastral Survey.*



Errata: please note the following corrections:

In the July/August issue. Under bat facts it should have read the little brown bat is the only bat found in the Anchorage area. There are several other types of bats found

throughout Alaska, notably in southeast Alaska. Brown bat should have read little brown bat. The correct Internet address for Bat Conservation International is www.batcon.org.

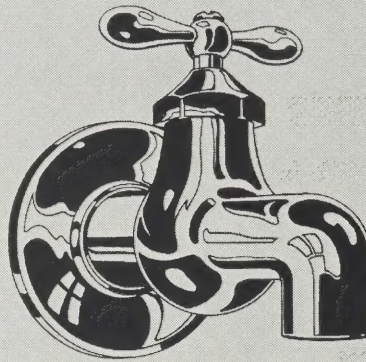
Former Employee Comes to Anchorage. Former ASO outdoor recreation planner **Terry O'Sullivan** came up from Arizona to give outdoor recreation planner **Bill Overbaugh**, a hand with the recent statewide recreation workshops.

Field Office Hosts Public Lands Apprecia-

tion Day and Open House. The Anchorage Field Office held their annual Campbell Creek Science Center open house in conjunction with Public Lands Appreciation Day on Sept. 26 at the Campbell Tract in Anchorage. Community volunteers worked on improving the Campbell Tract trails in the morning. In the afternoon, the open house featured booths, live bird exhibits, cooking with bugs, nature games and a visit by Smokey Bear.

a military transport to Puerto Rico, Sept. 23 to assist with disaster relief efforts after the Caribbean Island was devastated by Hurricane Georges. At least hundreds of people have been killed and hundreds of millions of dollars of property has been damaged. The 20-person crew will clear trees and do other cleanup work to help restore transportation and communications which were disrupted by the 110 mph hurricane.

Are We A Dehydrated Nation?



your Health

Have you had your eight glasses of water today? If you're an athlete, pregnant or live in a dry climate, you'll have to drink more! If you're including soda, coffee, tea, alcohol or anything but the clear stuff, it doesn't count. Many of these drinks dehydrate the body, especially caffeine and alcohol, so if you indulge, you'll need to drink additional water.

The importance of drinking water hit home recently. After experiencing excruciating stomach pain, I had a battery of

expensive tests, after which my physician surmised I had the beginnings of gastritis. (The tests revealed nothing.) He prescribed a pill which I took every day; my pain went away. For three months, I ate and drank as I did before. When the pills ran out, the pain returned. I got another prescription but decided that I wouldn't live the rest of my life taking pills. I eliminated my daily four cups of coffee and my occasional glass of wine. In the meantime, my father insisted that I do one thing

for him—drink at least eight glasses of water a day, which I did. I stopped taking the pills and miraculously, I had no more pain. (Now I do drink some coffee and alcohol on occasion). At my father's insistence I began reading ***Your Body's Many Cries for Water***, a fascinating book which attributes many degenerative conditions of the human body to chronic dehydration. The human body is 75 per cent water. What do you think happens when the water in our body isn't replenished? Medical professionals have not fully explored the vital role of water in the human body; maybe their association with drug companies has something to do with it. Medications relieve symptoms, but frequently provide no cure. Do some research, drink more water, and you be the judge.

—Editor

Alaska People

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